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not in service. The same may be said of the officers. But the system into which they have entered makes it "all right." They could not possibly serve as soldiers without at times doing such things. No army ever did, nor ever can. The system of force reverses, or totally banishes, all the common principles of morality as regards life and property. Man may steal from friend or foe, or if worst comes to worst, rob in open daylight, and it is justified on the ground that it is necessary. It has often occurred to us to ask, if a hungry soldier may do such a thing to save his life or an army to save a nation, why may not a hungry civilian, if need be, do the same to save his own life or that of his family? What difference is there in the two cases? The time will come when men will blush with shame that their ancestors maintained a system which destroyed nearly every principle of common morality. There must be some other way of maintaining justice and right than by a means which for the time being annihilates them both.

The case of the cruelty of Colonel Streater requires but little comment. It has been nearly everywhere condemned. Military men have scarcely dared openly to approve his treatment of Iams. It is incomprehensible that society, which has been so severe in its judgment of this case, should fail to see the deep contradiction into which they unconsciously fall. The law of war, which requires that discipline and obedience should be maintained at any price, really justified Colonel Streater in proceeding as he did, if not in this case, at least in a supposable case. The army life of every nation has cases of like kind occurring every year. There is no law but the will of the commander. Hence a disorderly soldier must be brought to time by any means which the commander judges fitting, or if the discipline of the army requires it, shot dead in his tracks, or run through with a bayonet. So long as men uphold the rightfulness of such a law, they ought to steel their hearts against being greatly shocked if some officer carries out the law in a way that seems to them unduly severe.

The conscience of society is becoming vaguely aware that there is something radically wrong here, and the day is approaching when such cruelty will cease because the system which produces it will have been banished from human institutions.

THE OPENING OF THE PEACE CONGRESS AT BERNE.

The Fourth Annual Universal Peace Congress was opened at Berne this morning, August 22, at 9 o'clock in the Swiss Bundespalast. The delegates, about two hundred in number, were nearly all present at the opening of the Congress, and the hall was well filled with intelligent men and women from many lands, gathered here to dis-

cuss the question of questions of our time. The capacity of Berne to entertain is tested to the utmost. Many travellers are here besides the delegates to the Congress. The hotels are all full and many are compelled to seek entertainment in private boarding-houses. All Berne is full of talk about the Congress, which is a unique affair in nearly every city in which it goes. The newspapers were all represented during the sessions of to-day, and there is no probability that the things done here will be done in a corner.

The forenoon session was a sort of reception. Mr. Ruchonnet, of the Swiss Federal Council, presided, and welcomed the delegates in a short but strong and attractive speech. Then followed speeches, in response, by delegates from Germany, England, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, the United States, France, Italy and Roumania. Nearly all of these speakers alluded to the progress of peace ideas in their several countries, some of them emphasizing the fact strongly. This was particularly true of the German delegate, whose speech was one of the very best of these responses. Nearly all alluded to the fitness of Switzerland to be the seat of the present peace Congress and to her long and honorable history in the cause of freedom and justice, ideas which lie at the basis of the peace movement. Her prominent part in the history of arbitration was also mentioned, the Alabama case being cited, and the fact that her neutrality, connected with other advantages, naturally causes the world to look to her as the centre of the arbitration movement. One speaker poetically compared her to the nucleus of a nebula which is developing into a system of planets and suns. The session on the whole was a very interesting and inspiring one, and it was easily seen that those who were present are profoundly convinced of the truth of the new Gospel which they are called upon to proclaim.

The *personel* of the Congress is, as might be expected, very different from that of former congresses. Scarcely twenty of those who were at London in 1890 are here. Particularly noticeable is the absence of such men as Mr. Hodgson Pratt, Mr. Frédéric Passy and others, who have taken such prominent part in the peace movement. These two gentlemen are not absent from any wish of their own, but from unavoidable circumstances. But others no less prominent in the cause and quite as long connected with it are seen in the audience: Mr. George Gillett, Dr. W. E. Darby, Mr. Snape, Mr. Frederick Bajer, Mr. Moneta, Mr. Stollmeyer, Mr. Vasseur, Mrs. Belva Lockwood and a number of others. The large number of young men and women in the Congress is striking. The "Young Friends of Peace," of Nimes, have three delegates here, all strong, University young men. The Vienna Peace Society, with the Baroness von Suttner at its head, is strongly represented. She is one of the most prominent persons in the Congress, and any

part she may take is always welcomed by a round of applause. At the hotel she is at the head of the table, and is the general object of attention though herself modest and sensible. England is well represented by about twenty-five delegates—prominent among whom are Mr. Snape, Mr. Gillett and Miss Peckover. The United States has in all about ten delegates here, six of whom are from the American Peace Society. Mazzoleni and Moneta from Italy are here, and the former made one of the strongest speeches at the opening, in the course of which he said that the vocabulary of peace men does not contain the word foreigner. There are many new faces in the audience, all revealing hearts thoroughly alive to the great contention which has arisen against war.

The difference of tongue, as is always the case, has made some confusion in the opening of the proceedings, and one is inclined to wish that, in the interests of peace, all the earth were of one language and of one speech. But there is one admirable quality at least which difference of tongue cultivates, and that is patience. It is noticeable, however, that whenever any of the great ideas underlying and directing the peace movement are mentioned all difference of opinion on questions of detail disappear, and all tongues seem to blend in one, in sympathy and applause. There is great beauty in the friendliness and brotherliness with which the delegates from various lands meet and grasp each other's hand and, in broken speech it may be, talk of the principles which they are trying to bring to the recognition of the world.

In the hurry of getting off this little account of the opening of the Congress, no account can be made of the special points of business treated later in the day. These will be given in the next number of the *ADVOCATE*, together with an account of the proceedings during the remaining days.

B. F. T.

BERNE, SWITZERLAND, Aug. 22, 1892.

THE CANADIAN RETALIATION BILL.

In accordance with a special message from the President, what is known as the Canadian Retaliation Bill was passed by both houses without opposition, near the close of the recent Congress.

This Bill gives the President power to suspend by proclamation the right of free passage through St. Mary's Falls Canal to Canadian vessels. The St. Mary's Canal connects Lakes Superior and Huron, is entirely our own, and is not mentioned in the treaty with regard to the use of canals, made at Washington in 1871.

By this treaty our citizens were entitled to the use of the Welland Canal, which connects Lakes Erie and Ontario, on the same terms as the people of Canada, and in return the United States gave free use of the St. Claire Flats Canal.

The Canadian government have for about two years given a rebate on such goods as pass through the Welland Canal and thence to Montreal, but if they come to an American port no such rebate is made. Transshipment is necessary below the Welland on account of the St. Lawrence being deeper than the Welland.

If the transshipment is made on the American side and the goods are afterward sent to Montreal no rebate is made. The charges in all cases are the same at the canal and Canada insists that it is not a violation of the treaty to make the rebate. Our government thinks that it is not "on terms of equality" when our grain-shippers must pay in this way thousands of dollars more every year than the Canadian grain-shippers over the same canal.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

As we go to press we must record the death of one of our most honored Vice-Presidents. Born in Haverhill, Mass., December 17, 1807; died at Hampton Falls, N.H., September 7, 1892. Such is the simple statement of the beginning and end of the earthly life of John G. Whittier.

The work that filled so well the time between the beginning and the end remains to us. At the age of nearly eighty-five we found him still an interested friend and helper. We could have wished that he might have lived on thus for aye.

Action will be taken on behalf of the Society at the next meeting of the Board of Directors and record made in the October number of the *ADVOCATE*.

The Czar of Russia is said to have at his command four hundred thousand Cossacks. These Cossacks are cavalrymen mounted upon steeds trained like circus-horses. At the least whistling or hissing sound made by their riders they will kneel, or lie down, or get up. The purpose for which this body of horsemen is kept is for making raids into the country of enemies, to cut telegraph wires, blow up bridges, destroy railroad beds, and thus render mobilization impossible. Is the Czar any wickedder for having such a body of mounted soldiers ready to carry death and destruction in any direction than the Emperor of Germany for having at his command the enormous Krupp guns, or than Queen Victoria for keeping on her coasts great warships loaded down with implements of devastation and ruin? If one of these rulers is more Christian than the others, in what does it consist?

Four hundred members of the Freight Handlers' Assembly, 5572, Knights of Labor, met in Dexter Hall, Boston,